

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 /076 W

-----191059Z 094326 /22

R 190952Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5054

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, SY, RP, ASEAN

SUBJECT: MARCOS-LEE PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: (A) MANILA 798; (B) MANILA 16651 (10/28/76); (C) MANILA 15339
(10/4/76)

SUMMARY: LEE AND MARCOS ISSUED PRESS STATEMENT (IN LIEU OF COMMUNIQUE) AND HELD TELEVIZED JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE IN BAGUIO JAN 19. MOST TIME DEVOTED TO MUTUAL DENUNCIATION OF WESTERN PRESS FOR INSENSITIVE CRITICISM OF THIRD WORLD REGIMES. LEE REPEATED CONVICTION THAT "CONSTRUCTIVE" GREAT POWER BALANCE NEEDED FOR REGIONAL STABILITY, BUT AVOIDED BEING DRAWN INTO PUBLIC COMMENT ON US BASES IN PHILIPPINES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS LEE SAID JAPANESE PM WOULD

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BE INVITED TO ATTEND NEXT ASEAN SUMMIT (PROBABLY IN SUMMER 1977) IF RPT IF GOJ MAKES FIRM COMMITMENT TO AID ASEAN INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS. LEE (WHO DOMINATED CONFERENCE) WAS CRITICAL OF HANOI FOR REPORTED ATTACKS ON THAI-MALAYSIAN BORDER COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. MARCOS AND LEE ISSUED PRESS STATEMENT AND HELD JOINT

PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 19 IN BAGUIO. ALMOST ONE HOUR OF TWO AND ONE-HALF HOUR CONFERENCE WAS DEVOTED TO LENGTHY HARANGUES ON SINS OF "WESTERN PRESS," INCLUDING ITS HIGHLIGHTING OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LEE DID MOST OF TALKING ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT GOT FIRM SUPPORT FROM MARCOS). OTHER SUBJECTS COVERED INCLUDED:

2. GREAT POWER PRESENCE.

LEE REPEATED HIS OPINION, ALSO EXPRESSED IN SPEECH AT PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY PREVIOUS DAY, THAT "PEACEFUL CONSTRUCTIVE COMPETITION" AMONG GREAT POWERS ESSENTIAL TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. ASKED IF WITHDRAWAL OF US MILITARY PRESENCE FROM PHILIPPINES WOULD IMPAIR NECESSARY BALANCE OF POWER, LEE SUGGESTED THAT IMPROVEMENTS IN MILITARY TECHNOLOGY MIGHT CONCEIVABLY REDUCE NEED FOR BASES, BUT AVOIDED DEFINITIVE ANSWER.

3. ASEAN SUMMIT.

QUERIED ON DATE AND PLACE OF SECOND ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING, LEE SAID IT WAS UNDER DISCUSSION AND THAT SUHARTO HAD SUGGESTED "INFORMAL" MEETING IN MID-1977 TO REVIEW ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE BALI. LEE IMPLIED THAT THIS WOULD STIMULATE QUARRELSOME MINISTERS TO MAKE FASTER PROGRESS. HE SAID VENUE STILL OPEN TO QUESTION, BUT IF ALPHABETICAL ORDER FOLLOWED, IT WOULD BE KUALA LUMPUR WITH PHILIPPINES THE NEXT COUNTRY IN LINE.
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4. OTHER ASEAN MATTERS.

BOTH MARCOS AND LEE STRESSED FIRM DECISION THAT FROM NOW ON "ECONOMIC MINISTERS WILL MAKE DECISIONS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, TO BE PROMULGATED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS" (SEE REFTEL B). TWO HEADS OF STATE PROPOSED 10 0/0 REDUCTION IN INTER-ASEAN TARIFFS ACROSS THE BOARD. THEY ALSO CALLED FOR EXPANSION OF ASEAN ECONOMIC DIALOGUES WITH BOTH JAPAN AND WEST.

5. ASEAN AND JAPANESE RELATIONS.

MARCOS AMDE LONG PITCH FOR IMPROVED ASEAN-JAPANESE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP, STRESSING DESIRE FOR MORE LOCAL PROCESSING OF RAW MATERIALS EXPORTED TO JAPAN. LEE FOLLOWED WITH PREDICTABLY DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION EMPHASIZING DESIRABILITY OF JAPANESE OPENING THEIR MARKETS TO ASEAN MANUFACTURERS AND MORE USE OF ASEAN SHIPPING IN

JAPAN TRADE. MARCOS DID NOT ELABORATE ON HIS EARLIER CALL FOR AN ASEAN-JAPAN CONFERENCE (REFTELS A AND C) BEYOND IMPLYING THAT WHAT HE PROPOSED RELATED TO IMPROVED ECONOMIC RELATHIONSHIP.

6. JAPANESE ATTENDANCE AT FUTURE ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING.

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YOMIURI REPORTER ASKED IF FOREIGN PARTICIPATION WOULD BE

PERMITTED IN NEXT ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING AND IF SO UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS. LEE REPLIED THAT ASEAN NATIONS HAD DECIDED IT "INAPPROPRIATE" FOR PM MIKI TO ATTEND BALI SUMMIT ON EVE OF JAPANESE ELECTION, SINCE THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED AS SIGN OF FAVORTISM FOR ONE CANDIDATE. WITH REGARD TO FUTURE, LEE OPINED THAT IF JAPANESE WERE TO MAKE "FIRM COMMITMENT" TO HELP ASEAN (FOR EXAMPLE, BY SOFT-TERM OECF LOANS TO ASEAN INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS) IT WOULD BE "UNCHARITABLE" NOT TO INVITE JAPANESE PM TO ATTEND SIGNING CEREMONY AT SUMMIT.

7. HANOI STATEMENTS ON THAI-MALAYSIAN COOPERATION.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON HANOI CRITICISM OF THAI-MALAYSIAN
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"COLLUSION" AGAINST BORDER REBELS, LEE INSINUATED THAT IT SMACKED OF INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ASEAN COUNTRIES. HE SUGGESTED THAT HANOI EDITORS WHO ISSUED STATEMENT MIGHT BE GUILTY OF SAME SORT OF IRRESPONSIBILITY THAT CHARACTERIZES WESTERN PRESS AND PERHAPS HAD NOT READ "4 POINTS" (INCLUDING NON-INTERVENTION) WHICH ACCORDING TO SRV GOVERN VIETNAMESE RELATIONS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN NEIGHBORS. MARCOS ALSO DEFENDED THAI-MALAYSIAN JOINT ACTION AS LEGITIMATE COOPERATION IN DEFENSE OF "INTERNAL INTERESTS," ALTHOUGH HE MADE POINT THAT OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES WERE UNAWARE OF THIS ACTION AND DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN IT.

8. SINGAPORE-PHILIPPINE BILATERAL.

MARCOS SAID THAT BILATERAL MATTERS DISCUSSED INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: A) INCREASED COOPERATION IN INTELLIGENCE FIELD, INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF ANTI-SUBVERSION TECHNIQUES; B) MORE JOINT VENTURES IN PRIVATE SECTOR; C) EXPANDED AIR SERVICES (SPECIFIC DETAILS YET TO BE WORKED OUT); D) FURTHER COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HOUSING; E) INCREASED REFINING OF CRUDE OIL FROM PHILIPPINES (SIC) AS CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL COMPLEMENTARITY; F) INCREASED COOPERATION IN TOURISM.

9. COMMENT:

ASIDE FROM GENERALIZED REFERENCES TO GREAT POWER BALANCE, THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO MENTION OF US PRESENCE IN PHILIPPINES OR REGION. WE ASSUME IT MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT GREATER LENGTH IN PRIVATE. LENGTHY AND DEFENSIVE TREATMENT OF WESTERN PRESS SUGGESTS HIGH DEGREE OF SHARED PARANOIA ON THIS SUBJECT. PM LEE WAS EQUALLY CAUSTIC IN HIS REPLIES TO JAPANESE REPORTERS, STRESSING IN IRONIC TONES THAT ALTHOUGH SOUTHEAST ASIANS WOULD LIKE TO BE FRIENDS WITH JAPAN, JAPANESE TIGHT-FISTEDNESS MAKES THIS DIFFICULT.

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10. TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT WILL BE POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES WHEN AVAILABLE. LEE DUE TO LEAVE TOMORROW (JAN 20) AND ACCORDING SINGAPORE EMBASSY THERE WILL BE NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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